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News Release

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Department of Education announces scope of partnership with Caisses populaires acadiennes (08/13/18)

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FREDERICTON (CNB) - The scope of the partnership between New Brunswick's francophone schools and the Caisses populaires acadiennes to improve arts education and literacy was announced today by Premier Shawn Graham and Education Minister Kelly Lamrock.

(Multimedia)

A meeting with René Legacy, vice-president of the Caisses populaires acadiennes, was held on Monday, March 17, as part of the launch of Provincial French Pride Week, in Sainte-Anne-de-Kent. The Caisses populaires acadiennes are involved in such literacy projects as the *Lire, découvrir et grandir* program in francophone schools and communities.

"By involving our communities in the academic success of our young people and working with partners such as the Caisses populaires acadiennes, New Brunswick will be able to build the best education system in Canada," Graham said. "If we invest in our youth starting today, we will reap the benefits of self-sufficiency in the future."

The *Lire, découvrir et grandir* program covers three main literacy initiatives. Reading kits will be used as an educational tool for grades 1 and 2 teachers. Each kit includes two separate stories, with interactive tools designed to suit children's different levels of reading skills. The kits represent an investment of $100,000.

"Adding new educational tools and concentrating our efforts on literacy, numeracy, and science constitute the basis of our plan to improve academic outcomes," Lamrock said. "This is the type of initiative with private-sector partners or community organizations that is favoured in our plan, *When kids come first*. Our goal is to make our schools positive learning environments by supporting our teachers in their ongoing efforts to help develop and improve the literacy skills of all students."

The *Moi, j'aime jouer dehors* (I like to play outside) contest targets grades 1 and 2 students as part of Provincial French Pride Week. Five classes will win a prize valued at $250.

The Caisses populaires acadiennes have also made an annual contribution of $30,000 to the national ArtsSmarts program for the past three years. ArtsSmarts includes arts education and intervention by artists in teaching core subjects.

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"We are making our children's success in literacy our main concern because it will ensure not only the well-being, but also the long-term growth and development of our francophone communities," Legacy said . "The *Lire, découvrir et grandir* kits represent an investment of $500,000, and are designed to support teachers, equipping them with an additional educational resource."

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